

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention is objected to. The title is changed as indicated above to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Germany 801 in view of Minds, Wu and Nagata. Claims 1, 2, 10/1 and 10/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Brikett in view of Kameda, Kostich and Nagata. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The socket of the present invention has both a shutter held inside of the socket housing and a shell covering the outside of the socket housing, and the shell has a pair of members for preventing the shutter from coming out from the socket housing. However, connectors disclosed by the references other than US 2008/0018833 AI (Nagata) have either the shutter or the shell. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine a reference disclosing a connector having only a shutter with another reference disclosing a connector having only a shell. Moreover, if a reference disclosing a connector having only a shutter is combined with another reference disclosing a connector having only a shell, it is not obvious that the shell should have a pair of members to atop the shutter.

In fact, in Nagata, the only reference disclosing a connector having both a shutter and a shell, the shutter is stopped by engaging a claw piece 52 processed on the shutter 5 in a grounding contact piece 41 formed on the housing 1 (not the shell) as shown in Fig. 4. Therefore, the shutter and the housing (not the shell) need to be formed to prevent the shutter from coming out from the housing and this leads to complication of the structures of both the shutter and the housing, even in the reference (Nagata) disclosing a connector having a shell including members for stopping the shutter.

In contrast, a part of the shell is bent to form a pair of members for stopping the shutter according to the present invention. Such a structure is not disclosed in the references. Therefore, the present invention has advantages in that it is not necessary to form the shutter and the housing, and that the structures of the shutter and the housing are simple.

It is respectfully submitted that the United States Patent and Trademark Office misunderstands the differences between the present invention and the references. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the current amendments do not add any additional elements. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that they do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

At least for the reasons set forth above, claims 1-5, 8, 9 10/1 and 10/2 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Germany 801 or Bricket. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 depends from claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 and include all of the features of these claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is allowable at least for the reason claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better

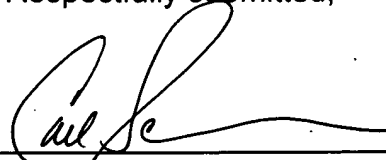
condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 24, 2005

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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